



TIP OF THE SPEAR

HERO LOGISTICIANS HELPED SHUT DOWN A TALIBAN BREACH



In July, Cpl. Ryan McSweeney and Lance Cpl. Joel Murray received valor awards for their quick actions to take out armed insurgents following a May 13 suicide attack in Helmand province's Musa Qala district, Afghanistan that killed three soldiers from the Republic of Georgia and injured dozens of other U.S. and Georgian personnel. As the insurgents maneuvered through a 100-foot breach in the wall the explosion created, McSweeney engaged using his rifle while in the turret of a 10-



wheel Logistics Vehicle System Replacement truck. He killed two insurgents, and ran to the breach in the wall to make sure no additional enemy

fighters were inside the wire. "Once we realized that they were down and we were clear to move up, McSweeney and myself moved up to the first casualty that we saw," said Murray. The duo and a couple of other troops scrambled to treat as many injured personnel as possible and assisted in their transport for medical treatment. [Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

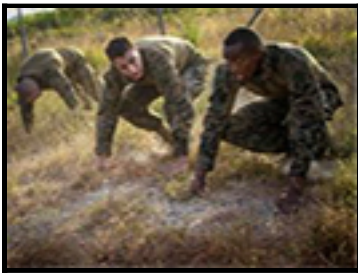


A British Army Commando with 148th Battery, 29th Commando Fire Support Team, Royal Artillery, rappels from a CH-46 Sea Knight during Exercise Burmese Chase 2013 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 6. The training evolution is an annual bilateral exercise that improves interoperability between American and British forces. Marines from 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, 2nd ANGLICO and the British Army Commandos participated in the exercise. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Cody Haas)*



IN THE NEWS

AFRICA PARTNERSHIP STATION SETS SAIL AFTER MONTHS OF TRAINING



Marines and Sailors with Security Cooperation Task Force Africa Partnership Station (APS) 13 embarked on their three-month deployment throughout western Africa Aug. 30, with the mission to strengthen global maritime partnerships through military engagement and collaborative security in the region. More than 90 service members endured months of various training exercises, polishing skills in Marine Corps Martial Arts, fast roping, helicopter operations and running obstacle courses, to ensure the success of the international security cooperation initiative. "I'm looking forward to this deployment and working with our partnered NATO forces,"

said Lt. Col. Charles Watkins, the APS 13 officer in charge. [Read more](#)

MARINES MOVED CLOSER TO LIBYA AS 9/11 ANNIVERSARIES APPROACH



Crisis response Marines have moved closer to Libya this week as part of an overall effort to beef up potential security response, as the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack approaches alongside the one-year anniversary of the attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya. In the past few days, 250 combat-ready Marines have moved from their base in Moron, Spain, to the U.S. naval installation at Sigonella, Italy, enabling them to reach Tripoli, Libya, in three to four hours in the event of a crisis.

Additionally, nearly three dozen Marines from a highly specialized embassy guard unit have been sent to augment security at several

embassies in the region. [Read more](#)

KOOLENDONG BRINGS MORE MARINES TO AUSTRALIA



Exercise Koolendong brought more than 900 U.S. Marines and 100 Australian Defence Force soldiers together to "invade" the Bradshaw Field Training Area, located southwest of Darwin, Australia. The exercise is a live-fire training operation allowing the U.S. to test its skills and military hardware in the tough terrain and intense heat of the Top End. Exercise Koolendong is aimed at assessing the suitability of the 8,700 square kilometres Bradshaw area as a future training site for the Marines. [Read more](#)

U.S. MARINES AND SYRIAN ARMY ARE NOT BROTHERS IN ARMS



The Syrian Electronic Army, a hacker group that supports the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, hacked Marines.com, the Marine Corps' recruiting website, Sept. 2, posting a message opposing U.S. action in Syria. "We understand your patriotism and love for your country so please understand our love for ours," the letter read, signed "Your brothers, the Syrian army soldiers." The Marines have not reciprocated the Syrian Army's sentiment. "The Syrians may be fighting the same Al Qaeda militants who battled the Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. But that doesn't make the U.S. Marine Corps and the Syrian Army brothers," said Forbes

contributor Michael Peck. [Read more](#)

NEW ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS ON INSTALLATIONS



Alcohol sales aboard Marine Corps installations will soon be restricted following an Aug. 26 memo signed by Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, aimed at supporting initiatives tied to sexual assault prevention and response, and overall health. The changes, which must be completed within 90 days from the date of the letter, include removing liquor from all sites designated as Marine Marts adjacent to barracks,



selling alcoholic beverage from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. in all Marine Corps exchanges, and relocating alcohol and its displays to the side or rears of exchanges. [Read more](#)

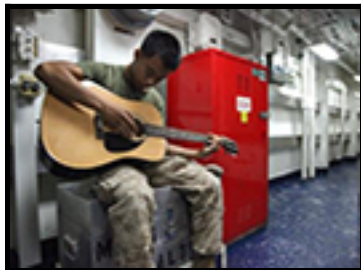
VEHICLE RECOVERY TEAM AWARDED



Marines with 1st Tank Battalion were recognized Sept. 3 for their actions while deployed to Afghanistan earlier this year. Staff Sgts. Kyle Shackelford and Jamie Held, Cpls. Philip Lim and Adam Nichols, and Lance Cpl. Eric Targon were recovering disabled vehicles when they came under extremely intense enemy fire. The Marines engaged and destroyed the fighters while continuing their recovery. With the exception of one vehicle, all gear was recovered and no Marines were lost. Shackelford, Lim and Targon were awarded Purple Hearts, Held was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Nicholas the Navy and Marine

Corps Achievement Medal. [Read more](#)

MARINE CORPS TO ALLOW 'CAREER INTERMISSIONS'



The Marine Corps announced a pilot program Aug. 23 that permits certain career Marines to temporarily leave active duty while maintaining grade, full health benefits and a percentage stipend of their base pay. Under the program, up to 20 enlisted Marines and 20 officers could be approved annually from 2013 to 2015 to enter the Individual Ready Reserve for periods of up to three years. "The long-term intent of this program is to provide greater flexibility in career paths of Marines in order to retain valuable experience and training of Marines who might otherwise permanently separate," the announcement states. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

At 9:38a.m. a commercial airliner, piloted by terrorists, slammed into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Department of Defense, located across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The Marines Corps was fortunate in that no Marines were killed or seriously injured in this attack. The weekend before, most of the Department of Marine Aviation, located directly above the site of impact, had been relocated to another area of the Pentagon, during building renovation. Immediately following the attack, Marines set up a "command center" under an overpass of Interstate 395, which runs beside the Pentagon. Working alongside fellow servicemen and civilians for hours, days, and weeks after the tragedy, Marines played a large role in the rescue and recovery effort. Including those aboard the hijacked Boeing 757, 189 men, women, and children were killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.



SEMPER FI

VIETNAM VETERAN AWARDED BRONZE STAR 46 YEARS LATER



Retired Staff Sgt. David Nugent was awarded a Bronze Star with "V" device Aug. 26 for his actions as a section leader for Mortar Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines during the Vietnam War, 46 years ago. Nugent's unit came under attack by a North Vietnamese Army Regiment on Sept. 6, 1967. He was assisting a wounded Marine when an enemy grenade landed near him. Disregarding multiple shrapnel wounds, including the loss of two fingers, Nugent called for covering fire from an adjacent fighting position and then braved enemy fire to get reinforcements. He is credited with helping to prevent the post

from being overrun. [Read more](#)



THE CORPS REPORT

The Corps Report: Ep. 17- Alcohol-Sale Changes and A Break From Active Duty

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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